

# The Desperate Dozen

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others

# The Critically Endangered Dozen

- 25 years ago we proposed that large whales had been saved at the species level but many small cetaceans were going extinct
- Here, we review 12 taxa of small cetaceans, update their status and current threats, and discuss the conservation actions needed urgently from them to be saved
- Two or three of the world's experts for each of these 12 taxa were part of this project

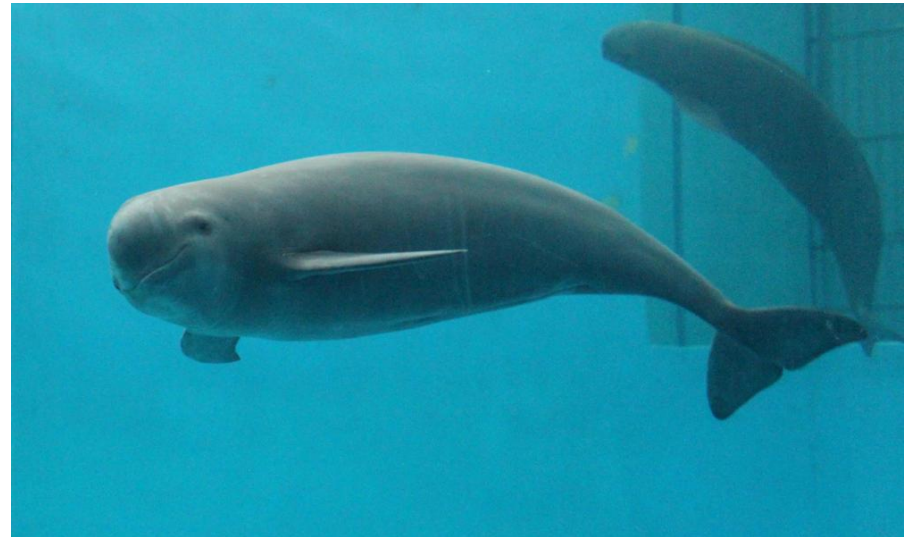
# Vaquita

**Mexico, Less than 100, bycatch**



# Finless Porpoise

**Yangtze, 1,800, bycatch, habitat**



# Maui's Dolphin

**NZ, 50, bycatch,**



# ETS Humpback

**Taiwan, 75, bycatch, habitat**



# Mekong River

**Cambodia, 90, bycatch**



# Mahakam River

**Indonesia, 100, bycatch**



# Irrawaddy Dolphin

# Songkhla Lake

**Myanmar, 100s, bycatch**



**Thailand, 50, bycatch**



# MSD

**Philippines, 100, bycatch**



# Baltic Sea Porpoise

**Baltic Sea, ????, bycatch**



# Fiordland Dolphin

**NZ, 200, ship strikes, habitat**



# Cook Inlet Beluga

**AK, 320, direct catch, habitat**





# Summary

- Over the past 25 years the situation for small cetaceans has gotten worse
- The baiji has gone extinct
- The desperate dozen are all in serious trouble & suffered major pop declines
- 11 of the 12 are found in a single country
- Bycatch is the major issue for 10 of them & all because of post WW II monofilament gear
- It may be too late for many of them

# The Future

- Many other subspecies and subpopulations are at various levels of risk, but money is needed to rank them
- The vaquita will be the “Test Case” for political will needed to prevent extinction
- Without action now, desperate dozen will not be around for future threats caused by dams and climate change